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# Inside Information

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## FAS INFORMATION DIRECTOR NEEDED

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service is looking for a GM-1035-15 Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist to serve as Director of the Information Division. The job serves as the focal point in planning and implementing FAS's public affairs program. Applicants must have skill in written and oral communication, personal relations, and analytic ability.

Contact: Tim Dorman, USDA, FAS Personnel Division, Room 5627-S, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone (202) 447-3267.

Closing date is October 21.

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## COMPUTER-GENERATED SIGN MAKER

The Design Division of USDA's Office of Information has a new computer generated sign maker. The center of the graphics design station is an Apple IIe computer, capable of storing jobs on a floppy disk for future use. This capability will help save time and money. Many jobs have repeat requests at a later time.

The robotic cutter is capable of digitalizing logos and art on paper or self-adhesive vinyl. Vinyl letters can be cut in a matter of seconds, making it possible to fill a request for a sign in a very short time. The vinyl logos or letters are weather resistant and can last up to five years.

Logos for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Teleconference Center have already been cut and stored on disk for future use.

The system is capable of reproducing all the international symbols. The Design Division has eight different typefaces, and the capacity for 80. They also have a 30-inch plotter for large jobs.

For further information, contact: Jim Schleyer of OI's Design Division, at (202) 447-4337.

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## FOIA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Communications and Administrative Management, Administrative Management Training Institute: Successful Implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act, will be offered on October 24-25, at the Thomas Circle Training Center, 1121 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, DC. Contact: Stanley E. Betterman, (FTS) 254-3211. Cost: \$225.

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## ED SKELTON RETIRING

After 31 years of federal service, Ed Skelton is retiring. He began his government career in 1956 with the Government Printing Office as a typographer. In 1964, Ed joined the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Printing and Distribution. When ARS was reorganized in 1979, he was transferred to Science and Education Administration's Printing and Graphics Section. In 1982, another reorganization placed him in Extension Service.

A party is planned for October 23, from 2-4 o'clock, in room 107-A of USDA's Administration Building. Contact: Jim Wolfe at (202) 447-3401, or Judy Rude at (202) 447-4242.

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## FRIDAY LETTER EDITOR RETIRING

Alma Holland, editor of FNS's Friday Letter since 1977, is retiring after 33 years of federal service. She is being honored with a luncheon buffet at the Days Inn Restaurant in Crystal City on October 23.

For more information or gift donations, contact: Delores Peterson at (703) 756-3276 or Renee Brown at (703) 756-3278.

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## NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGES FROM EXTENSION

USDA's Extension Service has announced two new software packages, CORNpro and WHEATpro. These ProSeries decision aids, for use on microcomputers, are modeled on the ways farmers plan crop production. The software was developed by specialists in agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agronomy, entomology, and plant pathology.

Previously, farmers have used a mixture of rational analysis, personal knowledge, "gut" feelings, as well as information from many other sources to plan each field of crops. ProSeries software promises to be an important educational tool for analyzing production choices.

CORNpro, developed by Kansas State University with funding from the Kellogg Foundation, will be available in early Spring 1986. The most intricate portion of CORNpro is called the "shell." The shell consists of 107 separate procedures organized into several discrete subsystems, designed to help the user manage the entire corn production system.

To provide wheat producers with an aid for analyzing production choices, professionals in the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service are developing WHEATpro. Again, central to this system is the "shell."

The design of the shell incorporates features included in electronic spreadsheet programs and microcomputer graphics so the user can enter "what if" values and see results almost instantly. This enables the user to see how one decision affects others.

Another decision aid, BEEFpro, is currently on the drawing board.

For additional information on these projects, contact: Dr. Fred Poston, Associate Director of the Kansas Extension Service, at (913) 532-5820.

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INSIDE INFORMATION is published for distribution to public affairs and information staff members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, its agencies, state departments of agriculture and land grant universities. Any items, comments or inquiries should be addressed to either Denver Browning or Nancy Bevis, Office of Information, Room 536-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 or to AGR009 mailbox on the Dialcom system, or call (202) 447-7454.

